

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Notes on birds in south-eastern Western Australia** — Three species of birds recorded while travelling in the southeast of the State are of interest as records in this region are scanty. Pink Cockatoo (*Cacatua leadbeateri*) 14 birds at Madura Pass on September 5, 1982. Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) 1 bird about 50 km east of Cocklebiddy and 1 about 40 km east of Cocklebiddy on September 5, 1982. Black-breasted Kite (*Hamirostra melanosternon*) 1 bird flying and then perched about 15 km north of Salmon Gums on November 5, 1982.

P.A. BOURKE, East Maitland, N.S.W.

**Barn Swallows at Exmouth** — At 1100 hours on September 20, 1982 my wife and I visited the prawn fishery at Exmouth. Our attention was caught immediately by a party of four swallows which seemed larger, heavier and darker than Welcome Swallows (*Hirundo neoxena*). Their dark upper breast band became obvious when we approached to within twenty metres and examined them more closely. Although I am familiar with the Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) overseas this was my first sighting in Australia. We had not seen them in the area the afternoon of the previous day.

P.A. BOURKE, East Maitland, N.S.W.

[The observation above is interesting because, with Carnarvon, it is only the second known locality south of Dampier. It is also the earliest monthly record, other records are from October onwards. — Ed.]

**Ravens harrying a Ring-tailed Possum** — On September 8, 1982, at Busselton the attention of my wife was drawn by our grandchildren to a commotion in the upper branches of a peppermint tree near the old fire engine. She called me over and I was surprised to see two Ravens harrying a Ring-tailed Possum. They hopped from nearby branches and pecked at the possum, thrashing their wings among the leaves and branchlets. Sometimes they launched attacks from above or the side, but mostly from below. I don't know how long it had been going on but we watched for no more than 5 minutes. The possum made no aggressive movements but merely shifted around and about. The Ravens eventually flew away to another tree.

HARRY SHUGG, Applecross, W.A.

**Masked Plovers near Perth** — On 20 and 22 April, 1983 I observed two Masked Plovers feeding together in the grassy margin of a small swamp at the eastern edge of North Lake, 8km SE of Fremantle. Judging from their large wattles and mainly white necks, they belonged to the northern Australian race *Vanellus miles miles*. This, I believe, is the second sighting of the Masked Plover on the Swan Coastal Plain, the first being a bird collected by G.F. Mees and J.R. Ford at Jackadder Lake on 14 March 1959 (Ford, *Emu* 60, 1960: 58).

—JEAN R. WHITE, Western Australian Museum.

**Boobook Owl on Rottnest Island** — The only published sighting of the Boobook Owl (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*) on Rottnest Island is that of Glauert (Contributions to the fauna of Rottnest Island. No.1. Introduction and Vertebrates. *J. Roy. Soc. W. Aust.* 15, 1929: 37-46), who saw a bird in the settlement during August 1927.

At 0745 hours on 14th May 1983, a Boobook Owl was flushed from the verandah rafters at the Lodge Quadrangle, where it remained for some hours.

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